

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and the listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Process for producing hydrogen-containing fuel gases for fuel cells by catalytic reforming of hydrocarbons and subsequent gas purification, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the catalytic reforming has two successive stages of which the first stage comprises autothermal reforming and the second stage comprises downstream steam reforming at temperatures below 650°C.
2. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the catalytic reforming is carried out adiabatically and the reformat mixture at the outlet from the first stage of autothermal reforming has a temperature of from 650 to 850°C.
3. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the reformat mixture at the outlet from the second stage of steam reforming has a temperature of from 400 to 650°C.
4. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~, characterized in that the reformat mixture at the outlet of the autothermal reforming stage has a residual hydrocarbon content of from 0.5 to 10% by volume.
5. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~, characterized in that catalysts comprising support bodies to which supported catalysts containing noble metals have been applied are used for both stages.

6. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 5, characterized in that one or more noble metals from the group consisting of rhodium, platinum and palladium immobilized on oxidic support materials are ~~preferably~~ used as catalysts for the autothermal reforming and one or more noble metals from the group consisting of gold, rhodium and platinum immobilized on oxidic support materials are ~~preferably~~ used as catalysts for the steam reforming.
7. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that the fuel gas after the two-stage reforming is passed directly without interposition of one or more heat exchangers to a gas purification stage.
8. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 7~~, characterized in that the gas purification stage comprises one or more water gas shift stages or one or more gas separation membranes.
9. (currently amended) Apparatus for producing hydrogen-containing fuel gases for fuel cells by catalytic reforming of hydrocarbons and subsequent gas purification, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising two successive reactor stages for catalytic reforming, with the first reactor stage having at least one catalyst for autothermal reforming and the second reactor stage having at least one catalyst for steam reforming and no ~~further heat exchangers~~ exchanger being installed between the second reactor stage and the gas purification stage.
10. (currently amended) A mobile or stationary fuel cell in which the process of claim 1 is used. ~~Use of the process according to any of Claims 1 to 8 for producing hydrogen-containing fuel gases for mobile and stationary fuel cells.~~
11. (currently amended) A mobile or stationary fuel cell in which the apparatus of claim 9 is used. ~~Use of the apparatus according to Claim 9 for producing~~

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~~hydrogen-containing fuel cells for mobile and stationary fuel cells.~~